

REMARKS

Formal Matters

Claims 1-22 are pending in the instant application. Independent Claim 13 is allowed. Dependent Claims 11 and 12 are objected to, but would be allowed if rewritten in independent form. The Applicants thank the Examiner for the allowed or allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, the claims have been amended as follows:

Claims 3, 8-11, and 20-22 have been cancelled without disclaimer or prejudice.

Claim 13 has been amended to use the term "thermostatting" to describe the cooling. Support for the term can be found in FIGS. 1A and 1B, as well as paragraphs 57 and 63. In paragraph 57, in reference to embodiments of a temperature control zone 50 of FIG. 1A, the specification states:

"...Hot plate 9 is preferably automatically controlled by computing device 17 in response to temperature data received from sensing device 15."

An ordinary meaning of the word "thermostat" from which a verb form is rendered, is given for example in American Heritage New Dictionary of Cultural Literacy, Third Edition as:

"A device that monitors and automatically responds to changes in temperature and activates switches controlling devices such as furnaces or air conditioners."

Additionally, it is stated in the specification, in regard to the second cooled region 80 of FIG. 1B that, "...The temperature in the cooled zone 80 can be controlled using chilled air or other fluid or liquid with an arrangement similar to that provided in the temperature control zone."

Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that though the term "thermostat" is not specifically used in the specification, it is disclosed in terms clearly consistent with the ordinary meaning of the word. As such, the term "thermostat" is inherently disclosed. The Applicants further submit that the use of the term in Claims 1, 2, 4, 13, 14, 17, and 18 adds clarity, as discussed by the Examiner on page 4.

Moreover, the amendment to independent Claims 1 and 14 have been made in the spirit of the reasoning stated by the Examiner for allowance of Claim 13, and objection to Claims 11 and 12.

Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the feature of Claim 3. Claim 14 has been amended similarly. Support for the amendment to Claim 14 can be found in for example, but not limited by, paragraphs 38, 49, and 65, as well as FIGS. 2A and 2B. Claims 2, 12, 17, and 19 have been amended according to the amendments made from claims from which they depend. Support for the amendment for Claim 4 can be found in for example, but not limited by, paragraph 63.

Claims 23-27 have been added. Support for newly added Claims 23-25 can be found in for example, but not limited by, paragraphs 20, 22, 35, and 58. Support for newly added Claim 26 can be found for example in, but not limited by, paragraph 49. Finally, support for newly added Claim 27, can be found in for example, but not limited by, paragraphs 38, and 65, as well as FIGS. 2A and 2B.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, no new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections- 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and § 103(a)

In the Office Action dated March 6, 2008, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-10 and 14-22 of the instant application under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for alleged anticipation and obviousness using cited references, which included Karger et al. (US 5, 633, 129; hereafter Karger), Hjerten (US 4, 906, 344), and Demorest et al. (US 5 ,264, 101; hereafter Demorest) or Menchen et al. (US 5, 290, 418; hereafter Menchen).

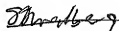
The Applicants respectfully affirm that the currently presented claims of the instant application make the rejections under the cited art moot, as the amended claims reflect the reasoning articulated by the Examiner regarding allowable subject matter. Therefore, the Applicants respectfully submit that currently presented Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 13-19, and 23-27 are in condition for allowance, which consideration is requested. If the Examiner finds that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to contact me at the telephone number listed below.

Fee Authorization

Should any extension of time and/or fee be necessary for the timely submission of this paper, such extension of time is hereby requested, and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge **Deposit Account No. 01-2213 (order no. S053C1)**. Any deficiency or overpayment should be charged or credited to this deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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Sally A. Swedberg, PhD
Reg. No. 53,659
Agent for Applicants

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS

Customer Number: 22896
APPLERA CORPORATION
Applied Biosystems Group
Patent Department – M/S 432-2
850 Lincoln Centre Drive
Foster City, California 94404
TEL: 650-554-2863
FAX: 650-638-6677